

INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Community Outreach Efforts

March 7, 2006: Meeting with Civil Rights Commission

The Civil Rights Commission of Indiana is currently directing efforts to identify the link between discipline and achievement. The strategies to be replicated are similar to that of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Civil Rights Commission would like to identify guidelines and recommendations for the Department of Education (DOE) similar to that of Pennsylvania's. Ohio has taken it one step further by developing a curriculum which articulates the rights of education for children. Three members of the Civil Rights Commission met with various members of the ICJI staff. Da Mica O'Bryant is the Director of Grants and Contracts, Christine Cde Baca is the Deputy Director and Gregory Kellam Scott (Judge Scott) is the Director of the Commission. They have had contact with Russ Skiba and Ms. Washburn in Bloomington. They intend on implementing a program called the Positive Behavioral and Intervention Support which "catches students when they are doing the 'right' thing." The Civil Rights Commission wants to refocus and make education a priority by obtaining a better understanding of why many students suspended and expelled are reoccurring suspended and expelled individuals and how it relates to the dropout rate. They currently are submitting a grant proposal to ICJI to be reviewed for funding in reference to their prospective initiative.

March 13, 2006: Meeting with Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners

The Department of Education (DOE) will be working closely with ICJI on behalf of the Indiana Disproportionality Committee (IDC) which will assist in the creation of a presentation directed towards education majors at various colleges for presentation purposes. In addition to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems racial disparities will also be addressed in the education system in reference to the number of students based on race that are suspended and expelled. The additional component will enhance the existing presentation while having a direct impact to future educators. Good news was mentioned by Brenda Alyea and her co-worker Sandy that in 2007 Hispanic reporting will also be included in the federal mandate, therefore schools will have to provide that data as well. The representatives of the Division of Exceptional Learners will be providing statistics and definitions of various terms that future educators will need to ingrain in their language in order to follow State protocol when in the classroom setting. Truancy rates will also be obtained through Gaylan (another DOE worker).

March 15, 2006: Conference Call, DMC Coordinators—OJJDP

The conference call provided the opportunity for DMC Coordinators from across the United States to come together and discuss efforts and concerns which are arising in their jurisdictions. Approximately 25 DMC Coordinators and Juvenile Justice Specialist participated in the call. The focus of the call was the new database that allows states to input their data in a query in a sufficient manner. In April training will be scheduled for Coordinators to learn more about the database and how to input data correctly. The purpose of the database is to track progress or lack thereof over time. Currently there are no individualized databases but in the near future customizations will be completed. The concept of "Train the trainers" was introduced in order to cover community outreach. This will be covered in the September DMC Conference.

March 16, 2006 : Meeting with New Life Worship Center, Minister Nickelson

New Life Worship Center was invited to sit on IDC representing faith-based entities. ICJI staff met with the Program Director of the facility who is very interested in the work of our committee. He will be meeting with the Youth Pastor whom he believes is best fit to represent the organization. Minister Nickelson also stated that if time allotted that he too would also partake in committee duties. Another meeting will be scheduled between ICJI staff and the Youth Pastor to further discuss the roles and expectations of a committee member. Standard information of the committee and current work was provided to Minister Nickelson to pass along to the Youth Pastor.

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